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Mexico

**Our Opportunity**  
in  
**Mexico**

By Mrs. Wm. A. Ross

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## OUR OPPORTUNITY IN MEXICO.

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A series of conferences during the past five years dealing with mission work in Mexico have resulted in the assigning to our Southern Presbyterian Church as her special responsibility in Mexico over two million people. (2,125,958). This is far and away greater than any responsibility that we have ever before assumed in Mexico and the very greatness of it is startling. The weight of it should indeed bear down upon our hearts; every Southern Presbyterian should feel the burden of it. Before the other churches working in Mexico, some of whom gave up parts of their own field for us, we are responsible; before God we are responsible.

But why might we not change the point of view and look upon the task as our special privilege? A special people given the special privilege of entering into large opportunities now awaiting us in Mexico. Let us examine some features of this opportunity before us in Mexico.

## **It Is a Vast Opportunity.**

We should at the very beginning learn the location and nature and vastness of the field assigned to our church in Mexico. If you can, write to Rev. S. G. Inman, Secretary of the Committee on Co-operation in Latin America, 25 Madison Avenue, New York City, and get the New Missionary Map of Mexico. A good look at that map will stir your soul; the part in deep blue is ours. If you cannot get one of these maps get any map of Mexico and search out the states of Michoacan, Guerrero, Morelos and Mexico. We get all of the states of Michoacan and Guerrero and about half each of the other two states mentioned. It is a section as large as the state of Alabama. Look at it until it becomes peopled in your mind, as it is in fact, with human souls, over two million of them, looking to our church for the Gosepl. Each one of those persons is an opportunity; the entire group makes a vast opportunity.

## **It Is an Attractive Opportunity.**

All of this vast multitude of people live in one of the most attractive sections of Mexico. The state of Michoacan is called the Paradise of Mexico. There are lakes and mountains

and valleys and plains. A good portion of our field lies in the table land of Mexico and this gives it a good climate. It is attractive physically. And this attractive section of Mexico is inhabited by an attractive people. They are hospitable, courteous, and kind. The industries which they have built up show that they are capable of great advancement. The response which has been made to the evangelical appeal when presented to the people in the section of Mexico assigned to our church gives promise of greater things. It takes little imagination to see in those people some of the most attractive of the sons of men when their sins have been cleansed in the blood of the Lamb of God. Then will their energies be directed toward the work of God; then will their poets and musicians ascribe praise to God and their great natural wealth be devoted to Him.

### **It Is an Opportunity to Make Amends for Past Failures.**

We have never in an adequate way done the part of the Good Samaritan by our prostrate neighbor Mexico. At no time in all of the history of our Mission in Mexico have we had more than three evangelistic missionaries;

at no time have we had more than three lady missionary teachers; at no time have we had more than three lady missionary evangelistic workers; we have never had a hospital nor a doctor nor a nurse. God has greatly blessed the work of our church in Mexico, but gifts of men and money have been pitifully small when we remember our obligation to a country in such great need at our very door. Now we have an opportunity to make amends for the past failures.

### **It Is an Urgent Opportunity.**

Something surely has been wrong with Mexico. We have looked upon her as a very bad neighbor. And yet our very neglect in the past makes us to a large extent responsible. And we may confidently predict that unless the Protestant churches greatly enlarge their work giving to the country more than ever before the Evangelical Faith with its attendant blessing of the education of the masses and the enlightenment of the conscience and the fidelity to high principles, there will continue to be trouble in Mexico and we will continue to regard her as a bad neighbor. And now is the time. The social, political, economic, intellectual, and religious changes which have so recently taken place in Mexico have prepared

the minds and hearts of the people for things new. Along with all things new they are now prepared to receive the GOOD NEWS. The old nationalistic and self satisfied spirit is giving away to a readiness to accept influences from other nations; the old conservatism is breaking down and they are ready to test things new; along with all other Latin American countries Mexico shares in an admiration for the idealism and power of the United States as was shown in the war when our nation went unselfishly to establish liberty among men. This gives us an unusual opportunity. Our message is now listened to. And so as the country is slowly returning to normal conditions and while the minds of the people are open, and when the people have more faith than ever before in our unselfish desires to help, now is the time of all times to make the evangelical agencies the real factors in building up the country. Let God have a chance to work in Mexico.

### **It Is an Opportunity to Test the Ability of Our Church Under God to Evan- gelize a Special Field.**

The very distribution of the country among the different churches is a test of the ability

of each one to give to the section assigned an adequate Gospel agency. Our church is being tested along with the others. We will enjoy the fellowship with the other missions in union work of various kinds; in the general work we will be associated with them, but in our special field we are to be alone. The other churches are making large plans. They are planning to meet the obligation and enter into the responsibility. We know that Christ in whose name we have undertaken the great enterprise is watching eagerly to see what we shall do. What answer shall our church give? Shall we meet the test? Shall the multitudes of people who have been committed to us rise up in judgment and condemn us?